

Brick Store Museum, located in historic Kennebunkport, Maine, for achieving accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums.

Since 1936, the Brick Store Museum has offered generations of locals and visitors the opportunity to explore the rich history of one of Maine's most prominent port cities.

The Brick Store Museum's focal point is a building constructed in 1825 as a dry goods store by William Lord. The exterior remains much the same as when it was built, giving today's visitors a glimpse of what life was like nearly 200 years ago.

I am proud of the museum's commitment to preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting Kennebunkport's important role in our history. Many students have passed through its rooms, gaining knowledge, understanding, and a stronger attachment to the area where they have grown up.

I share the Brick Store Museum's belief that the history of our oldest towns is crucial to understanding where we are now and where we are headed. As Maine continues to advance into the future, the Brick Store Museum offers an important tether to our past.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,788,832,145.30. We've added \$6,111,911,783,232.22 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### HONORING MR. WALTER BRUCE, JR.

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Walter Bruce, Jr., who is a remarkable public servant.

Mr. Walter Bruce, Jr., an 84-year-old native of Durant, Miss., was born May 30, 1928. He is the son of the late Mr. Walter Bruce, Sr. and the late Mrs. Georgia Bruce. He had seven sisters and six brothers and a loving wife, Louise, who are all deceased.

Mr. Bruce, Jr. was educated in Holmes County and grew up in the country where his parents were small farmers. Historically, he is mostly known for his dedicated work to the civil rights movement in Holmes County. He started the county's Freedom Democratic Party (HFDO). The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party was an American political party created in Mississippi in 1964, during the Civil Rights Movement. It was organized by black and white Mississippians with assistance from the student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Council of Federated

Organizations (COFO) to challenge the legitimacy of the white-only U.S. Democratic Party.

Mr. Bruce participated in marches and boycotts in Holmes County and in Jackson, Miss.. He and others worked with nationally noted activist Fannie Lou Hamer of the Mississippi Delta. He was extremely instrumental in bringing about emergence of black elected officials in Holmes County as well as black police officers.

Prior to his work in the civil rights movement, Mr. Bruce organized an all-black Little League Baseball Team which he headed for 16 years. He is also founder of the legendary gospel singing group, Soul Travelers of Durant, Miss. After 54 years, he still heads the group today.

Mr. Bruce is the father of two adult daughters and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Walter Bruce, Jr. for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

#### NATIONAL AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY

#### HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2013*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of their 95th anniversary.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has been helpful to the United States, committing troops to our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq and providing airspace and the use of its airports for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan has also joined all 12 international conventions on counter-terrorism and they support regional cooperation to fight terrorism through local agreements and participation in NATO, the Organization for Security in Europe, and others. Azerbaijan also provides a key alternative route for the oil and natural gas supplies of Central Asia to reach Europe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Azerbaijan's 95th anniversary.

#### HONORING ERIC MESCH

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2013*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Eric Mesch has been involved in adult Jewish education programming at Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale where he teaches on topics of interest, and for several years, organized the all-night learning program on Shavuot. Last year, Eric organized an event in memory of Matt Fenster z"l, in which members of many different Jewish communities came together to mark the completion of the study of the Mishnah. Eric is also a member of the Board of Directors of Mechon Hadar.

For as long as he can remember, Eric's connection to Jewish study has been intense, complex and defining. He grew up on Staten Island in a Conservative Jewish home and synagogue, but attended the Orthodox

Yeshiva of Flatbush in Brooklyn from third grade through high school. Later, as an undergraduate at Yale College, Eric majored in religious studies and also spent a semester at Yeshivat Hamivtar in Israel. After college, Eric attended Columbia Law School, graduating with his J.D. in 1995.

Eric met his wife Rachel while they were undergraduates at Yale but they didn't start dating until his senior and her junior year. Their relationship blossomed over good coffee, something that is still important to them. They married in 1995 and in their first year of married life they lived in Jerusalem where Eric was a law clerk to the Supreme Court of Israel and Rachel continued her graduate work at Hebrew University. They have three children, Abby, Eliza and Sam.

Eric is a partner with the law firm of Dickstein Shapiro LLP, focusing on bankruptcy-related and other complex commercial litigation while Rachel is a professor of French literature and chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Yeshiva University.

I congratulate Eric for all the good work he is doing at the Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale. He had made CSAIR and the Riverdale community a better place.

#### HONORING THE PLATTE COUNTY FAIR

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Platte County Fair for celebrating 150 years of providing entertainment and excitement to its attendees.

The very first Platte County Fair was held in 1858. However, the fair did not become an annual event until 1863. The first fair in 1858 was planned on Oct. 6 and took place only a short time later from Oct. 21–23, with 400 people in attendance.

The fair was a great success and continued until 1860, when the Civil War prevented the fair from taking place during the years of 1861 and 1862. The fair was praised as "an honor to the soil and people" and "a glorious reunion of a prosperous and happy people."

On December 16, 1861, Platte City was ravaged by a Civil War raid. However, not even the devastation of Platte City was enough to keep its resilient citizens down. Just 22 months later, proud Platte Countians filled the fairgrounds for the First Annual Platte County Fair, which was held October 21–23, 1863.

The fair has been held annually since 1863, establishing itself as the oldest continuously running county fair west of the Mississippi River. The entire event is privately held and sponsored by a not-for-profit organization run by volunteers. The fair now spans four days, featuring many great events such as the demolition derby, a truck and tractor pull, the Queen contest, and more. The Platte County Fair is also home to many great sources of entertainment including a floral hall, a carnival, a fiddle contest, and the Dirty Shame Saloon, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding the Platte County Fair for celebrating